IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A composition for a reduced viscosity hydrophobic thickener system for thickening a polymer-containing aqueous system, said composition comprising:

a) a cyclodextrin-containing compound having a hydrophobic cavity of a predetermined size; and

b) a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising~~containing~~ at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound and at least one branched chained or straight chained diisocyanate functional group of a size and configuration such that said diisocyanate functional group is capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound;

wherein at least a portion of said cyclodextrin-containing compound is complexed with said hydrophobically modified ~~associative~~ thickener in such a way that at least a portion of at least one of said phobes and/or one of said diisocyanate functional groups at least partially fills said hydrophobic cavity.

2. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said cyclodextrin-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of: alpha cyclodextrin, beta cyclodextrin, gamma cyclodextrin, ethoxylated cyclodextrin, propoxylated cyclodextrin, methyl-alpha cyclodextrin, methyl-beta cyclodextrin, and methyl-gamma cyclodextrin.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a reduced viscosity thickener system for a polymer-containing aqueous system, the method comprising:

a) providing a cyclodextrin-containing compound having a hydrophobic cavity of a predetermined size;

b) providing a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound, and at least one branched chained or straight chained diisocyanate functional group of a size and configuration such that said diisocyanate functional group is capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound; and

c) mixing said cyclodextrin-containing compound provided in step (a) and said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener provided in step (b), such that at least a portion of said cyclodextrin-containing compound of step (a) is complexed with said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener of step (b) in such a way that at least a portion of at least one of said phobes and/or at least one of said diisocyanate functional groups at least partially fills said cavity.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the closer the size of said cyclodextrin-containing compound hydrophobic cavity is to the size of said at least one terminal phobe of said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener, the higher the viscosity suppression efficiency of said cyclodextrin-containing compound,

wherein said at least one terminal phobe of said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener is not larger in size than said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the viscosity of a polymer-containing aqueous system, comprising mixing the reduced viscosity thickener system prepared according to claim 4 with:

a) a polymer-containing aqueous system, wherein said polymer is water-insoluble; and

b) a surfactant capable of decomplexing said cyclodextrin-containing compound from said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a reduced viscosity thickener system for a polymer-containing aqueous system, the method comprising:

a) providing methyl-α-cyclodextrin having a hydrophobic cavity;

b) providing a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said methyl-α-cyclodextrin, and at least one branched chained or straight chained diisocyanate functional group of a size and configuration such that said diisocyanate functional group is capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound;

c) mixing said methyl-α-cyclodextrin provided in step (a) and said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener provided in step (b), such that at least a portion of said methyl-α-cyclodextrin of step (a) is complexed with said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener of step (b) in such a way that at least a portion of said phobes at least partially fills said cavity.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the viscosity of a polymer-containing aqueous system, comprising mixing the reduced viscosity thickener system prepared according to claim 8 with:

a) a polymer-containing aqueous system, wherein said polymer is water-insoluble; and

b) a surfactant capable of decomplexing said methyl-α-cyclodextrin from said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener.

10. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

a) a hydrophobically modified aminoplast-ether copolymer thickener; and

b) a cyclodextrin-containing compound,

wherein a solids content of the copolymer~~polymer~~ is 15-25 weight %.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the cyclodextrin-containing compound is a methylated cyclodextrin.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein a content of the cyclodextrin-containing compound is 0.45 to 4.5 weight %.

13. (Currently amended) A composition comprising

a) a hydrophobically modified aminoplast polyether copolymer thickener and

b) a viscosity suppressing agent selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrins and derivatives thereof,

wherein the lower limit of the solids content of the copolymer~~polymer~~ is 15 wt %.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the cyclodextrins are selected from the group consisting of alpha (α), beta (β), and gamma (γ) cyclodextrins.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the cyclodextrin derivatives are selected from the group consisting of methylated and hydroxyethylated cyclodextrins.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 10 carbons.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 14 carbons.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 25 wt %.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt %.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the lower limit of the cyclodextrin content is 0.5 wt %.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 1.5 wt %.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 1.0 wt %.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 17 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

25-28. (Canceled).